



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/825,083	04/14/2004	Mikhail M. Feldstein	2335-0010	7175
23980	7590	05/31/2005		
REED INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW GROUP 1400 PAGE MILL ROAD PALO ALTO, CA 94304-1124			EXAMINER CHEUNG, WILLIAM K	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1713	

DATE MAILED: 05/31/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/825,083

Applicant(s)

FELDSTEIN ET AL.

Examiner

William K. Cheung

Art Unit

1713

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 March 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-90 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-23, 26-29, 31-37 and 39-90 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 24, 25, 30 and 38 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 041404.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's affirmed election of Group IV invention, claims 24-30, 38-41, without traverse is acknowledged. Therefore, in view of lack of traversal to restriction requirement set forth from Response to Restriction Requirement, the restriction set forth by the examiner is deemed proper and is therefore made Final.
2. Claims 1-90 are pending. Claims 1-23, 31-37, 42-90 are drawn to non-elected subjected matter.
3. In view of applicants elected species, claims 24, 25, 30, 38 are examined with merit.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application

Art Unit: 1713

by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

5. Claims 24, 25, 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Parker et al. (US 2003/0055190 A1).

*The invention of claims 24, 25, 30 relates to a **water-soluble, hydrophilic adhesive polymer** that is **free of covalent crosslinks**, wherein the polymer is prepared by **polymerization of a composition** consisting essentially of a **hydrophilic monomer** and an **acrylic acid monomer esterified with a hydrophilic side chain**.*

Parker et al. (abstract; page 1, paragraph 0001) disclose an acrylic polymer composition suitable for adhesive applications. Parker et al. (page 1, paragraphs 0006-0014) disclose that the adhesive composition comprising an acrylic acid esterified with a hydrophilic side chain (alkylene oxide chain). In view of the substantially identical composition, the examiner has a reasonable basis to believe that the claimed "water-

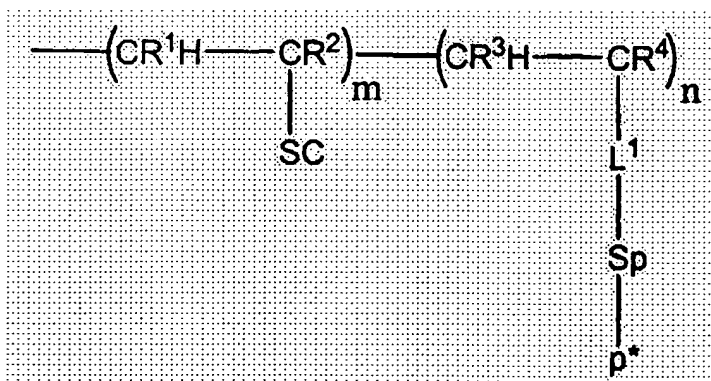
Art Unit: 1713

soluble, hydrophilic adhesive polymer that is free of covalent crosslinks" is inherently possessed in Cleary et al. Claims 24, 25, 30 are anticipated.

Regarding product by process claims, applicants must recognize that "[E]ven though product-by-process claims are limited by and defined by the process, determination of patentability is based on the product itself. The patentability of a product does not depend on its method of production. If the product in the product-by-process claim is the same as or obvious from a product of the prior art, the claim is unpatentable even though the prior product was made by a different process." In re Thorpe, 777F.2d 695, 698, 227 USPQ 964, 966 (Fed. Cir. 1985)

6. Claim 38 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hart et al. (US 3,150,977).

*The invention of claims 38 relates to a **water-soluble, hydrophilic adhesive polymer** that is **free of covalent crosslinks**, having the formula:*



where:

m is an integer in the range of 0 to 100,000;

n is an integer in the range of 1 to 100,000;

*R¹, R², R³, and R⁴ are independently selected from **hydrogen, lower alkyl, and lower hydroxyalkyl;***

*SC is a **hydrophilic side chain;***

*L¹ is selected from **-(CO)-O-, -O-(CO)-, -O-(CO)-O-, -(CO)-NH-, -NH-(CO)-, -O-(CO)-NH-, -NH-(CO)-O-, -S-S-, -S-(CO)-, and -(CO)-S-;***

*Sp is a **poly(alkylene oxide) linker containing about 4-40 alkylene oxide units;***
and P is a **polar moiety.***

As claimed, Claim 38 essentially is claiming a polymer, not a polymer mixture. Since Hart et al. (col. 2, line 4-37) disclose a formula that encompasses the polymer as claimed, claim 38 is anticipated.

In view of the substantially identical polymer structure, the examiner has a reasonable basis to believe that the claimed "water-soluble, hydrophilic adhesive polymer that is free of covalent crosslinks" are inherently possessed in Hart et al.

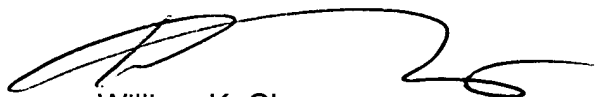
Art Unit: 1713

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William K. Cheung whose telephone number is (571) 272-1097. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:00AM to 2:00PM; 4:00PM to 8:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David WU can be reached on (571) 272-1114. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



William K. Cheung

Primary Examiner

May 23, 2005

**WILLIAM K. CHEUNG
PRIMARY EXAMINER**